



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
PIEDMONT BRANCH
1590 ADAMSON PARKWAY, SUITE 200
MORROW, GEORGIA 30260-1777

July 1, 2009

Regulatory Division
200702073

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah District/State of Georgia

The Savannah District has received an application for a Department of the Army Permit, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), as follows:

Application Number: 200702073

GDOT No. EDS-441(40), Putnam County, P.I. #222470

Applicant: Georgia Department of Transportation
Office of Environment/Location
Attention: Mr. Glenn S. Bowman
3993 Aviation Circle
Atlanta, Georgia 30336-1593

Location of Proposed Work: This stimulus roadway project corridor for United States Highway (US) 441/State Route (SR) 24/Milledgeville Road begins just north of County Road (CR) 245/Cay Drive, at approximate latitude 33° 12' 27" North and longitude 83° 17' 50" West, and ends at US 129/SR 44/Gray Road/Eatonton Bypass, at approximate latitude 33° 17' 56" North and longitude 83° 23' 12" West, in Putnam County, Georgia. To the east of CR 247/Crestview Road, US 441/SR 24 would begin at new location, continue westerly to CR 66/Dennis Station Road and the Norfolk Southern Railroad, veer north and cross CR 65/Friendship Road and CR 178/Sweetshrub Drive, and rejoin the existing US 441/SR 24 roadway south of US 129/SR 44. The project length is approximately 10.35 miles.

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers: To permanently impact 4.73 acres of wetlands/open waters and 715 linear feet of streams during widening and relocation along the US 441/SR 24 roadway project corridor. Open Water #2, Lake Sinclair, located at latitude 33° 13' 36.7" North and longitude 83° 18' 32.3" West, would have 4.5 acres filled to widen the roadway. Additional fill of 0.23 acre would occur in one wetland and 3 ephemeral channels. Two intermittent streams would be impacted by 225 linear feet for culvert extensions, and two perennial streams would be impacted by 440 linear feet for culvert extensions with one stream being filled for 50 linear feet with riprap. The project is located in the Oconee River Basin.

EDS-441(40), Putnam County, P.I. #222470, is a STIMULUS PROJECT.

The applicant, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), proposes to widen and reconstruct US 441/SR 24 in Putnam County. The existing two, three and four-lane roadway would be widened to 4-lanes with a 44-foot depressed grassed median, 10-foot shoulders, and a 6.5-foot bike path on both sides of the roadway. The US 441/SR 24 corridor is a primary north-south corridor in eastern Georgia. Widening the roadway would improve access to the region, accommodate anticipated increases in traffic volume, and increase safety and efficiency on the road.

As compensatory mitigation for the unavoidable adverse impacts to 4.73 acres of wetlands/open waters and 715 linear feet of perennial and intermittent streams, GDOT proposes to purchase 25.5 wetland credits from the Pritchett Mitigation Bank in Morgan County, Georgia, and 3,217.5 stream credits from an approved mitigation bank that services the project area. This is in accordance with mitigation requirements in the "Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources; Final Rule," published in the April 10, 2008, Federal Register, Vol. 73, No. 70, Pages 19594-19705.

GDOT considered a No-Build alternative in which they would take no action to construct the proposed roadway widening and which would have no new impacts to waters of the US. However, this alternative would not accommodate the projected volumes of traffic, would cause the roadway to operate at lower speeds, would cause a higher number accidents and injuries, and not accommodate and encourage economic expansion in the area and region. It also does not meet GDOT's need and purpose to improve capacity, safety, and enhance traffic access to create economic growth in the region.

BACKGROUND

This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the US Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Georgia. The applicant's proposed work may also require local governmental approval.

STATE OF GEORGIA

Water Quality Certification: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, intends to certify this project at the end of 30 days in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which is required by an applicant for a Federal Permit to conduct an activity in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia. Copies of the application and supporting documents relative to a specific application will be available for review and copying at the office of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Watershed Protection Branch, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354, during regular office hours. A copier machine is available for public use at a charge of 25 cents per page. Any person who desires to comment, object or request a public hearing relative to State Water Quality Certification must do so in writing and state the reasons or basis of objections or request for a hearing within 30 days of the State's receipt of the

application. The application can also be seen in the US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Regulatory Division, Piedmont Branch Office located at 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200, Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777.

State-owned Property and Resources: The applicant may also require assent from the State of Georgia which may be in the form of a license, easement, lease, permit, or other appropriate instrument.

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Savannah District must consider the purpose and the impacts of the applicant's proposed work, prior to a decision on issuance of a Department of the Army Permit.

Cultural Resources Assessment: Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Preservation Division Act of 1966, as amended, we request from the Georgia Historic Preservation Division (Georgia HPD) or any other interested party information on whether any cultural resources that are listed or proposed for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) may be present in the area. Presently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical data may be located at the site and could be affected by the proposed work. The applicant has performed early coordination with the Georgia HPD, and this proposed project was been assigned number HP-980429-008.

GDOT surveyed the project corridor and found no archaeological resources in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register located within the proposed project's area of potential environmental effect (APE). Georgia HPD concurred on GDOT's archaeological finding in June 2005. Five historical resources in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register are located within the proposed project's APE. These resources include the Resseau-Puckett House, the Dunn House, Stonegate Farm, Friendship Church, and the Norfolk Southern Railroad. Project implementation would result in a finding of No Adverse Effect for these resources, which the Georgia HPD concurred with on November 25, 2003.

Endangered Species: Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), we request from the US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the US Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, or any other interested party, information on whether any species listed or proposed for listing may be present in the area.

GDOT surveyed the project corridor for the presence of federally listed endangered species and their habitat. They determined that the proposed project would have no effect on any federally listed species. The USFWS concurred with this determination on January 12, 1999.

Public Interest Review: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal

must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Consideration of Public Comments: The US Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the US Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Application of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines: The proposed activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States. The Savannah District's evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

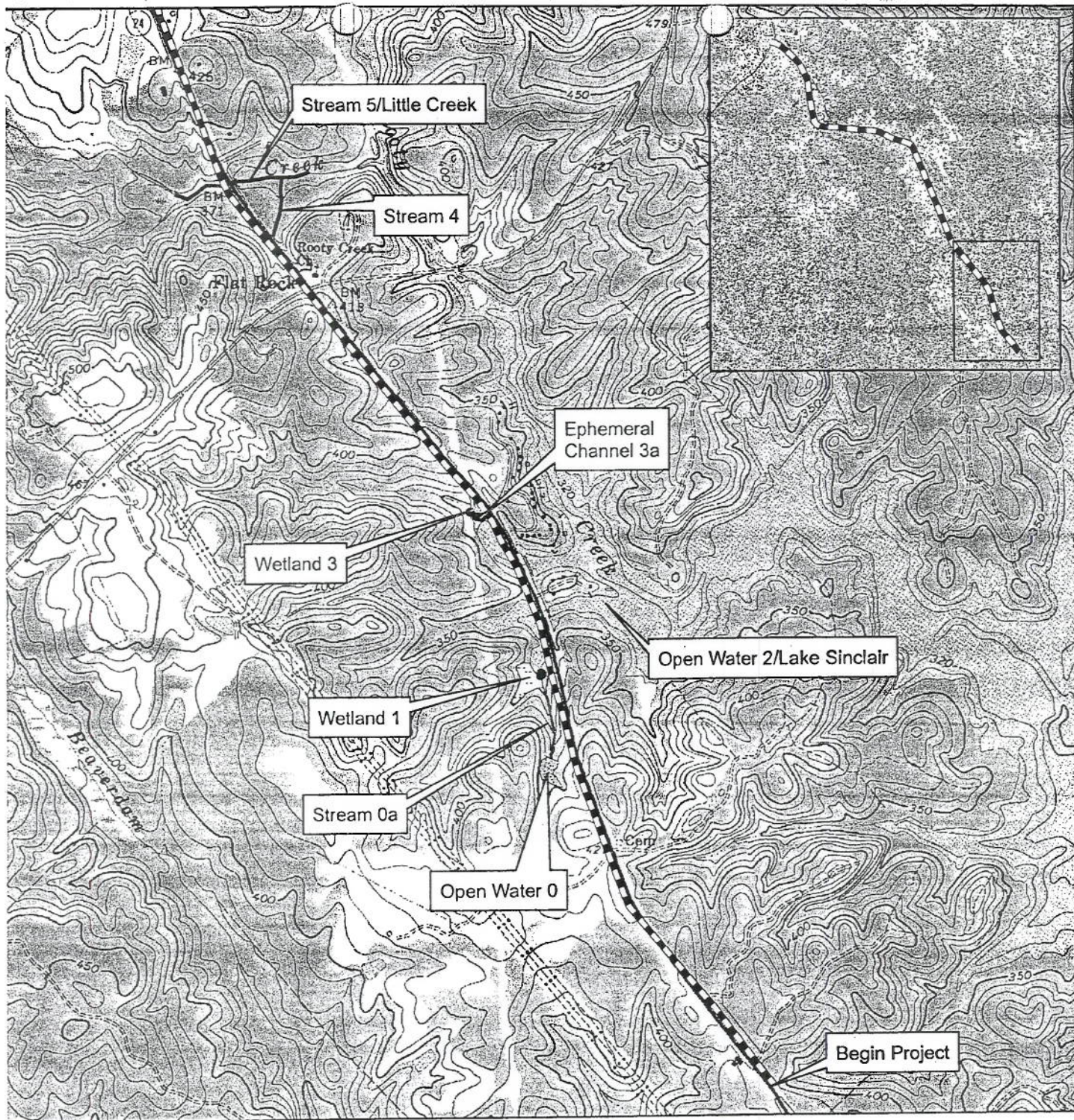
Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army Permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. The decision whether to hold a public hearing is at the discretion of the District Engineer, or his designated appointee, based on the need for additional substantial information necessary in evaluating the proposed project.

Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Permit should submit comments in writing to the US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Regulatory Division, Piedmont Branch, Attention: Ms. Mary Dills, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200, Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice (August 3, 2009). Please refer to the applicant's name (Georgia Department of Transportation) and the application number (200702073) in your comments.

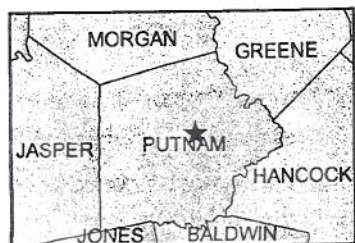
If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Ms. Mary Dills of the Regulatory Branch at (678) 422-2727.

5 Enclosures

1. Project Location Map, Figure 1
2. Figure 2a: Waters of the US
3. Figure 2b: Waters of the US
4. Table 1. Summary of Open Water/Wetland Impacts (3 pages)
5. Table 1. Summary of Stream Impacts (2 pages)



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Feet



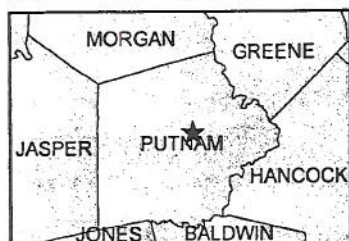
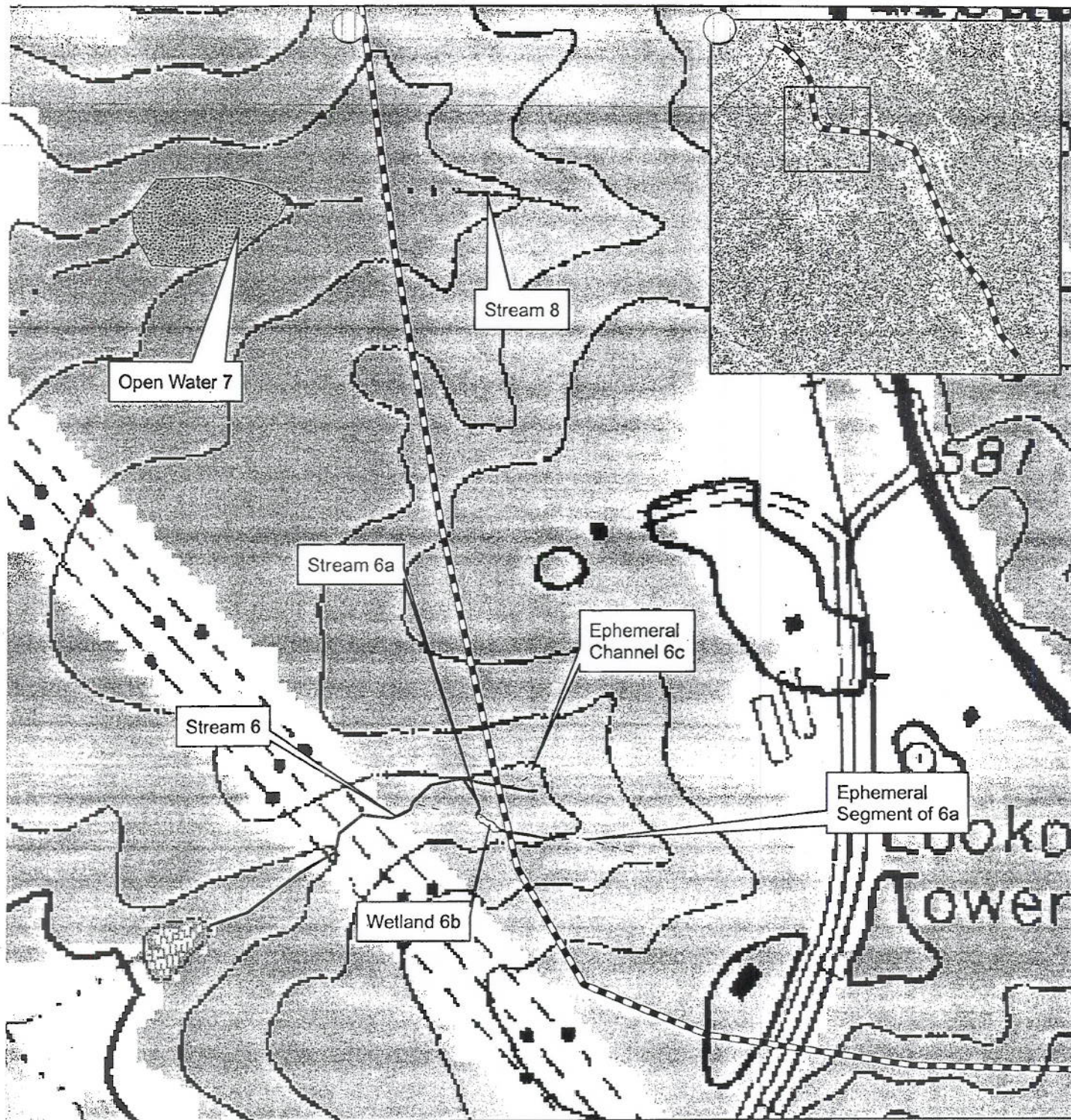
Source: Lake Sinclair West
Quadrangle, USGS 7.5' Series
(Topographic)

Figure 2a.
Waters of the US

Widening and Reconstruction of SR 24/US 441
EDS-441(40), Putnam County
PI # 222470



200702073 Enclosure 2



Source: Lake Sinclair West
Quadrangle, USGS 7.5' Series
(Topographic)

Figure 2b.
Waters of the US

Widening and Reconstruction of SR 24/US 441
EDS-441(40), Putnam County
PI # 222470



200702073 Enclosure 3

Table 1. Summary of Open Water/Wetland Impacts

Site	Cowardin Classification	Water Regime	Drainage Association	HUC #	Wetland or Open Water Description	Area (acres) of Temporary Impact	Area (acres) of Permanent Impact
Open Water 0	PUB3	Permanently flooded	Lake Sinclair	03070101	This manmade pond measures approximately 1.49 acres. The vegetation included red maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>), sweetgum (<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>), tulip poplar (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>), wisteria (<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>), <i>Smilax</i> spp., poison ivy (<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>), water oak (<i>Quercus nigra</i>) and Virginia creeper (<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>)	0.00	0.00
Wetland 1	PFO1	Artificially flooded	Lake Sinclair	03070101	Wetland 1 is a high quality bottomland hardwood wetland associated with Lake Sinclair. The hydrology was indicated by water filling the pit to 4" from the surface, 5% of the surface inundated up to 2" deep. A soil pit was dug to 12.5" and the following profile was observed: 0-4": 7.5 YR 3/3, sandy-loam; 4"-7.5": 10 YR 5/4, many coarse prominent mottles 7.5 YR 3/4 and 5 YR 5/8, sandy-clay; 7.5"-8.5": 7.5 YR 4/2, many coarse prominent mottles 2.5 YR 3/3, clayey-sand; 8.5"-10.5": 7.5 YR 5/2, many coarse prominent mottles 5 YR 4/6, saturated soils; 10.5"-12.5": 7.5 YR 4/4, many coarse prominent mottles 2.5 YR 3/4, sandy clay, soupy. The vegetation included red maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>), sweetgum (<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>), tulip poplar (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>), wisteria (<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>), <i>Smilax</i> spp., ironwood (<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>), muscadine (<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>), black willow (<i>Salix nigra</i>), poison ivy (<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>), water oak (<i>Quercus nigra</i>), giant cane (<i>Arundinaria gigantea</i>), Virginia creeper (<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>), and rush spp.	0.00	0.00

Open Water 2	PUB3	Permanently flooded	Little River	03070101	Lake 2/Lake Sinclair is formed by impounding the Little River.	0.00	4.5
Wetland 3	PFO1	Seasonally flooded	Lake Sinclair	03070101	The vegetation included black willow, ironwood, box elder (<i>Acer negundo</i>), lizard's tail (<i>Saururus cernuus</i>). And false nettle (<i>Boemaria cylindrica</i>). The soil was hydric and drainage patterns and blackened leaves were present.	0.00	0.2
Ephemeral Channel 3a			Lake Sinclair	03070101	Ephemeral channel 3a has a bankfull width of 1-2 feet and a bankfull height of 3-4 inches. The channel was in Wetland 3 and shared the same types of vegetation: black willow (<i>Salix nigra</i>), ironwood (<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>), box elder (<i>Acer negundo</i>), lizard's tail (<i>Saururus cernuus</i>) and false nettle (<i>Boemaria cylindrica</i>). Several of these species were growing within the channel that flowed into Lake Sinclair.	0.00	0.003
Ephemeral Channel 6a			Little River	03070101	Ephemeral channel 6a is part of Stream 6a. The surrounding vegetation included sweetgum (<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>), muscadine (<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>), tulip poplar, water oak (<i>Quercus nigra</i>), red maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>), winged elm (<i>Ulmus alata</i>), and soft rush (<i>Juncus effusus</i>) and leather rush (<i>Juncus coriaceus</i>).	0.00	0.03
Ephemeral Channel 6c			Little River	03070101	Ephemeral channel 6c has a bankfull width of 2-3 feet and a bankfull height of about 4-5 inches. The channel has its confluence with Stream 6 and has no sinuosity. The surrounding vegetation included sweetgum (<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>), muscadine (<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>), tulip poplar, water oak (<i>Quercus nigra</i>), red maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>), winged elm (<i>Ulmus alata</i>), and soft rush (<i>Juncus effusus</i>) and leather rush (<i>Juncus coriaceus</i>).	0.00	0.001

Wetland 6b	PFO1	Seasonally flooded	Little River	03070101	Wetland 6b is a medium quality wetland that receives water from Stream 6b. The hydrology was indicated by water filling the pit to 4" from the surface. A soil pit was dug to 12.5" and the following profile was observed: 0-10": 7.5 YR 3/3 of sandy-loam and 10"-12.5": 10 YR 5/4 with many coarse prominent mottles valued at 7.5 YR 3/4 and 5 YR 5/8, sandy-clay. Vegetation included Nepalese brown-top (<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>), giant cane (<i>Arundinaria gigantea</i>), Virginia creeper (<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>), and leather rush.	0.00	0.00
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TOTAL ACRES OF IMPACT: 4.73

Table 1. Summary of Stream Impacts.

Site	Drainage Association	Stream Type	HUC #	Stream Morphology	On 303d List?	Length (ft)/Type of Temporary Impact	Length (ft)/Type of Permanent Impact
Stream 0a	Lake Sinclair	Intermittent	03070101	Stream 0a is an intermittent stream whose channel has no sinuosity and runs parallel to SR 24/US 441. The stream runs into Lake Sinclair and forms the border of Wetland 1.	No	0.00	0.00
Stream 4	Little Creek	Intermittent	03070101	The stream was 12" wide and 1" deep, the channel was 24" wide and 12" long. The substrate included gravel and sand. The vegetation included poison ivy, privet, red maple, green ash (<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>), sweetgum, winged elm (<i>Ulmus alata</i>), and red mulberry (<i>Morus rubra</i>).	No	0.00	175.00/Culvert
Stream 5/Little Creek	Rooty Creek	Perennial	03070101	The stream was 17' wide and 1' deep and the channel was 20' wide and 15' deep. The substrate included gravel, silt and sand. The vegetation included Japanese honeysuckle, water oak, tree of heaven, doghobble (<i>Leucothoe axillaris</i>), red maple, <i>Smilax</i> spp., sycamore (<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>), and ironwood.	No	0.00	190.00/Culvert 50.00/Riprap

Stream 6	Little River	Intermittent	03070101	The stream is 36" wide and 18" deep, the channel is 15' wide and 12' deep. The substrate consists of sand and cobble. The vegetation includes sweetgum, muscadine, tulip poplar, water oak, red maple, winged elm, and fern spp. This stream is impacted by livestock induced bank erosion, lack of riparian vegetation in powerline ROW, and recent dumping of construction debris in the stream channel.	No	0.00	50.00/Fill
Stream 6a	Little River	Intermittent	03070101	Stream 6a is an intermittent tributary of Stream 6 and was not described in the previous ecology documents. Stream 6a has a bankfull width of 10-15 feet and a bankfull height of 3-4 feet. The surrounding vegetation included sweetgum (<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>), muscadine (<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>), tulip poplar, water oak (<i>Quercus nigrum</i>), red maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>), winged elm (<i>Ulmus alata</i> , and soft rush (<i>Juncus effusus</i>) and leather rush (<i>Juncus coriaceous</i>).	No	0.00	0.00 7
Stream 8	Little River	Perennial	03070101	The stream is 10' wide and 15' deep channel. The substrate consisted of sand, bedrock, and woody debris. The vegetation includes water oak, muscadine, sweetgum, giant cane, privet, red maple and planted pine.	No	0.00	250.00/Culvert

TOTAL LINEAR FEET OF IMPACT: 715.00